

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic CENTRE HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT (DHL FILE #123-25)

and or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Henry, N. Adams, N. Jefferson, Franklin, E. Washington streets,  
Centre Hill Court, Centre Hill Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Petersburg N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county (city) code 730

## 3. Classification

| Category                                     | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|  | N/A   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|  |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum            |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|  |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street &amp; number N/A

city, town Petersburg N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23803

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Petersburg Clerk's Office

street &amp; number Petersburg City Hall

city, town Petersburg state Virginia Zip Code 23803

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys (See Continuation Sheet # 19)

title (1) Division of Historic Landmarks  
Survey (File #123-25) has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate February 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street Zip Code

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

|   |  |   |   |            |
|---|--|---|---|------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |  | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed               |   |   | N/A        |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Centre Hill Historic District is located in the northern section of the city of Petersburg southeast of the downtown commercial area and several blocks south of the Appomattox River. Consisting of eighty-three buildings including only one which is considered noncontributing, the district is an enclave of residential architecture ranging in age from the early 19th century to the present. Surrounded by areas of incompatible modern commercial, industrial, and municipal development, the district is defined by properties lining Centre Hill Court, Centre Hill Avenue, and certain blocks of North Adams, Henry, North Jefferson, Franklin, and East Washington streets. Centre Hill mansion, a refined, early 19th-century, Federal-style brick dwelling that is individually listed in the National Register, serves as the focal point of the district around which evolved examples of Greek Revival and Italianate architecture. The Centre Hill estate originally encompassed extensive landscaped grounds surrounding the house until the early 20th century when much of the area was subdivided into building lots. Subsequently becoming a court-shaped residential development, Centre Hill Court contains an impressive collection of Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and American Foursquare dwellings that is unique in Petersburg.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The district is mostly located atop Centre Hill which gradually rises above the commercial and industrial areas of the city. Named for its geographic position between two nearby hills, Centre Hill serves as the prominent site of the elegant brick mansion of the same name. Built during the second quarter of the 19th century for the prominent Bolling family, Centre Hill is a well-known Petersburg landmark that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Although the house is remarkably well preserved, the original grounds of the estate have changed dramatically over the years. By the mid-19th century the grounds of Centre Hill were confined within the block formed by North Adams Street, Henry Street, North Jefferson Street, and Franklin Street. The mansion's park-like setting remained nearly intact until 1911 when much of the land immediately surrounding the house was sold to a development company which divided it into twenty-nine lots. Each lot faces Centre Hill Court, which is basically a circular drive that surrounds an open space park immediately Centre Hill Avenue, provides south of the mansion. A southern extension of the drive, Centre Hill Avenue, provides access to Franklin Street, while two parallel extensions flanking the east and west sides of the mansion provide access to Henry Street. Early 20th-century residences built on these lots after 1914 face the south, east, and west sides of the mansion, while a five-story brick apartment building built in 1915 dominates the rear and blocks the intended vista down to Henry Street.

Most of the early 20th-century architecture within the district is located on Centre Hill Court and is directly related to the mansion and the post-1911 subdivision of its grounds, however, there is also representative architecture of that period on North Jefferson Street as well as fewer examples on Franklin and East Washington streets.

Much of the architecture along North Jefferson Street and the 200 block of Franklin Street dates from the late 19th century with an occasional earlier 19th-century residence located along these streets. A majority of buildings in the 300 block of East Washington Street, however, date from the early to mid-19th century and represent the last surviving block of buildings on East Washington Street that reflects the city's early 19th-century development period.

(See Continuation Sheet # 1 )

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis (continued)

Although the properties located along North Jefferson, Franklin, and East Washington streets appear to have little relationship with Centre hill and its early 20th-century subdivision, they are vestiges of a 19th-century urban residential neighborhood in which Centre Hill mansion served as the focal point. Completely surrounded by modern development, the district is all the more distinct as an enclave of that earlier neighborhood.

Centre Hill mansion, which was built in the second quarter of the 19th century is a refined, two-story, Flemish bond-brick structure that exhibits both Federal and Greek Revival details. A graceful elliptical fanlight with sidelights adorns the north and south entrances of the house, while a Greek Revival veranda with Ionic columns extends across both front and rear facades. A dentil cornice surrounds the house above which rises a shallow-pitched roof with a flattened cupola. During the mid-19th century a two-story brick wing highlighted by brick pilasters was added to the east. The south facade of the mansion overlooks an expansive lawn shaded by large trees within a circular drive, while smaller lawns enclosed by a cast-iron fence flank the east and west sides of the house. A handsome Greek Revival cast-iron fence featuring fluted Doric column posts topped by finials once surrounded the estate, however, only a section along the south side of Henry Street still survives along with stuccoed gateposts at the northeast and northwest corners of the original estate.

Less distinguished buildings that probably date from the second quarter of the 19th century are located at 218 Franklin Street and 318-320 and 322-324 East Washington Street. Each residence is a vernacular frame structure covered in weatherboard with paired or single exterior end brick chimneys. The two on East Washington Street are double houses with side-passage plans and each possesses an added bracketed cornice and a one-story late 19th-century porch with turned posts. The house at 318-320 East Washington Street is more characteristic of the Federal Style with its steeply pitched roof and row of gable dormers across the front, while the house at 322-324 East Washington Street is reminiscent of the Greek Revival style as seen in its shallow-pitched gable roof and fenestration.

The Greek Revival style is more evident in the double house at 304-306 East Washington Street. It is a two-story frame structure clad in weatherboard with a four-bay facade highlighted by two single-bay Doric porticoes. Entrances are flanked by narrow sidelights with a three-light transom above.

One of the most refined Greek Revival houses in Petersburg is located at 103 North Jefferson Street. Indicative of the once fashionable mid-19th-century residential neighborhood surrounding Centre Hill mansion, this two-story, five-course American bond brick dwelling has a raised basement, a shallow pitched gable roof with paired interior end chimneys at the south gable end, a box cornice across the front, and broad stuccoed lintels over original six-over-six sash double hung windows. An especially fine portico with fluted Doric columns, a full entablature, and cast-iron balustrade shelters the entrance which is accentuated by narrow sidelights and a broad five-light transom.

A one-story frame structure located at 312 East Washington Street is an interesting example of mid-19th-century vernacular architecture that is often seen in Southside Virginia. Situated upon a raised brick basement, the square house is capped by a

(See Continuation Sheet # 2 )

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis (continued)

pyramidal roof with interior end chimneys. Originally a dwelling and presently a commercial establishment, the building has been altered. Regretfully, the original porch has been removed and the entrance changed to the basement level, however, despite these changes the building retains much of its original character. This house type is frequently found in rural areas and may have once been more commonly seen along Washington Street, but today it remains the sole survivor of its type in the district.

The Italianate style, popular during the mid-19th century in Petersburg, is seen in several buildings in the district. Three double houses located at Henry Street are excellent examples of high-style Italianate architecture. Built ca. 1860, the three buildings were probably built by the same contractor since all were originally identical. Each of the buildings is a two-story brick double house, two of which are covered in stucco, featuring a shallow pitched hipped roof, a bracketed cornice, and tall segmental-arched windows with handsome molded window heads, each adorned with a central carved cartouche. A molded window sill supported by small brackets completes the fenestration treatment. Two of the buildings possess later porches, however, the house at 217-219 Henry Street appears to have retained one of its original Doric porticoes. Besides being a picturesque grouping of a once common Petersburg house type, these three houses serve as an important visual element in terminating the vista down North Jefferson Street. They also serve as a reminder of the upper middle class mid-19th century neighborhood that once surrounded Centre Hill.

A variety of late 19th-century house types is seen throughout the district ranging from modest low-income houses of the period to large frame or brick modified Queen Anne houses. Two single-story frame dwellings with hipped roofs and porches with turned posts are located at 311 and 315 East Washington Street. They are representative of lower income housing in late 19th-century Petersburg. A more fashionable dwelling of the same era is located at 319 East Washington Street. It is a simple single-story frame house with a projecting front ell, tall six-over-six sash double-hung windows, a decoratively sawn bargeboard, and cutout porch supports flanked by scroll brackets. All three houses on East Washington Street are the only examples of their kind in the district.

A row of two-story frame houses along North Jefferson Street is representative of middle class housing of the late 19th century in Petersburg. The houses at 203, 205, 209, 215, and 219 North Jefferson Street were originally built alike and most have retained their original elements such as a bracketed cornice with returns and a three-bay porch with turned posts, spindle frieze, and sawnwork.

Larger upper-middle-class-houses in the district combine Italianate, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival elements to produce eclectic compositions that add to the visual variety of the streetscape. The houses at 107 and 111 North Jefferson Street, for example, feature bracketed cornices, bay windows, and sweeping porches while the house at 131 Franklin Street possesses typical Queen Anne-style massing with well-proportioned Colonial Revival elements such as a modillion cornice, oval bulls-eye windows, dentil window cornices, and a classically inspired porch.

An unusual dwelling at 124-126 North Jefferson Street also probably dates from the late 19th century or earlier. Reportedly an outbuilding or stable associated with Centre  
(See Continuation Sheet # 3 )

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Hill, the stucco building with its slate mansard roof was converted into a duplex in the early 20th century.

The most picturesque houses in the district are those located along the circular drive known as Centre Hill Court. Each of the early 20th-century houses faces either Centre Hill mansion or the circular park formed by the drive. Collectively, they comprise a richly diverse array of early 20th-century architectural styles that is unique in Petersburg. Elements of the Bungalow, Shingle, American Foursquare, Colonial Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival styles are identifiable and are sometimes combined in the same design. According to the city tax records, the first dwellings were built on lots 6, 11, 14, 15, 16, 16½, 17, and 25 in 1914 and they do indeed display a variety of architectural styles and building materials. The Scott House at 6 Centre Hill Court borders on turn-of-the-century vernacular architecture and the Queen Anne style while several doors down the Harrison House at 11 Centre Hill Court is reminiscent of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The Gill House at 14 Centre Hill Court exhibits elements of the American Foursquare but also contains distinctive Colonial Revival details. The houses at 15, 16, 16½, and 25 Centre Hill Court are all bungalows which vary in design and composition. They are stuccoed, shingled, and weatherboarded frame houses with hipped, gable, and clipped gable roofs and are indicative of the range of early 20th-century popular building trends in Petersburg. The Barham and Steward houses at 16 and 16½ Centre Hill Court are especially noteworthy examples of the Bungalow style with their sweeping roof lines, deep porches, and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends.

In 1915 Centre Hill Apartment Building was constructed directly north of Centre Hill mansion, thereby blocking the view of the house from the north. One of the first multi-family housing units in Petersburg, it is a five-story, essentially Colonial Revival brick structure with stone quoins, stone door and window lintels, and a stone stringcourse. The building may have lost its original cornice.

Other houses built in 1915 about Centre Hill Court include the Harrison House at 10 Centre Hill Court which is a very interesting brick bungalow with a decidedly Mediterranean-influenced wide-arched, yellow brick loggia across the front, the Levitt House at 24 Centre Hill Court, and the Baxter House at 26 Centre Hill Court, both of which are Colonial Revival-influenced designs.

Between 1917 and 1923 eleven additional houses were built on Centre Hill Court. During this time period fewer bungalows and Colonial Revival houses were built and more American Foursquare designs appeared. Among the best examples of the style are the Cooper House at 20 Centre Hill Court which is stuccoed and features a Mediterranean influenced arcaded front porch, the house at 22 Centre Hill Court which is also stuccoed with a front porch featuring massive Doric columns on piers, and the Marable House at 21 Centre Hill Court which is a brick structure with delicate Colonial Revival features like the elliptical fanlight over the entrance.

Two rather unusual houses situated on the western crescent of Centre Hill Court are the Eichberg House at 23 Centre Hill Court and the Powell House at 19 Centre Hill Court. The Eichberg House is a large stuccoed bungalow with very accentuated horizontal elements such as a very low-rise front porch with unusually massive Doric columns supporting a wide

(See Continuation Sheet # 4 )

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7. DESCRIPTION — Architectural Analysis

frieze. The Powell House, however, tends to accentuate the vertical elements of its design with the use of an asymmetrical porch with slender fluted Ionic columns and projecting wall dormers. The house also features an asymmetrical facade, clipped gable roof, and an arched hood over the glass double door entrance.

Only one house on Centre Hill Court postdates 1924. By that year the building campaign around Centre Hill was nearly completed. With the construction of the Tudor Revival Unger House at 27 Centre Hill Court another eclectic style was added to Centre Hill Court's record of early 20th-century residential architecture. Built on a less desirable lot with a steep grade, the Unger House is a one-and-one-half-story brick house with half-timbered gables and heavy wood porch posts.

A few houses on Centre Hill Court are actually duplexes, each with a different street address and facade orientation. For instance, houses at 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 Centre Hill Court also share the same building with 216, 212, 210, 206, and 204 North Jefferson Street. Similarly, houses at 24, 25, 26, and 27 Centre Hill Court also share the same building with 209, 211, 213, and 215 North Adams Street. This unusual building practice allowed the developer to maximize the number of rental units and minimize the construction of separate houses.

Early 20th-century dwellings outside Centre Hill Court are located on the north side of Franklin Street and the east side of North Jefferson Street in the middle of the block. They tend to be frame or brick, two-story, American Foursquare structures with either Colonial Revival or Bungalow details.

Besides residential architecture, the district contains St. Joseph's Convent at 123 Franklin Street. This Tudor Revival brick structure with leaded-glass windows and sandstone trim was probably built in the 1920s. Its pointed-arched recessed entrance with carved stone spandrel is well executed.

All the streets in the district are bordered by concrete walkways and several houses on North Jefferson Street have long runs of concrete steps ascending from the street to their porches. Many of the yards are enclosed by wrought-iron or cast-iron fences as is part of the lawn surrounding Centre Hill mansion. The circular park before the house is an open lawn shaded by large trees.

Houses on the southside of the 200 block on Franklin Street and the northside of the 300 block of East Washington Street have property lines that extend to a former right-of-way for a spur of the Atlantic Coastline Railway (in the 19th century, the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad). Although the rail line once served to link the Petersburg Railroad to the industrialized riverfront area to the north, the company has relinquished the right-of-way and abandoned the tracks, which crossed through the residential block as early as 1877.

DAE

(INVENTORY BEGINS ON CONTINUATION SHEET #5)

(See Continuation Sheet # 5 )

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

123-25

NORTH ADAMS STREET

100 BLOCK:

- 1 121: Detached house. Bungalow. Brick (stretcher bond); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with massive, stuccoed Doric columns, heavy balustrade. Overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, stuccoed cross gables. Ca. early 20th century.

200 BLOCK:

- 2 209: Detached house. Colonial Revival. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof; 2 bays; 1-story, 1-side-bay porch with Tuscan columns. Elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Ca. early 20th century.
- 3 211: Detached house. Vernacular. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; clipped gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with square columns on piers, heavy balustrade. Ca. early 20th century.
- 4 213: Detached house. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; clipped gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story-bay (center) porch with paired Ionic columns, heavy balustrade. Elliptical fanlight and sidelights, oval bull's-eye window on 1st floor. thermal window in attic.
- 5 215: Detached house. Tudor Revival. Ca. 1920s. Wood frame (half-timbered 2nd story)/brick (stretcher bond); 2½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with square wooden posts, brick base. House attached to corresponding house on Centre Hill Court, round-arched door.

CENTRE HILL AVENUE

00-99 BLOCK:

- 6 3: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with fluted Doric columns, simple balustrade.
- 7 5: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch, Doric columns.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

CENTRE HILL COURT

00-99 BLOCK:

EASEMENT

(also 123-51)  
-8  
8 (Centre Hill Mansion): Detached house. Greek Revival. 1823 with 1850 addition. Brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 5 bay porch with fluted Ionic portico, full entablature. English basement, interior end brick chimneys, cupola, 6/6 double-sash windows with bull's-eye flanked lintels, elliptical fanlight over entrance flanked by sidelights, 2-story brick addition built ca. 1850 has brick pilasters and full entablature.

-9  
6 (Richard C. Scott House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1914. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with square wooden posts, simple balustrade. Vertical siding in gables; house also faces North Jefferson Street.

-10  
7 (Elvira Andrews House): Detached house. American Foursquare. 1918. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 1 story, 2-bay porch with square brick columns, simple balustrade.

-11  
8 (Hawks House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1917. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with square brick columns. Overhanging bracketed eaves, dentil frieze.

-12  
9 (F. Harrison House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1917. Brick; 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer, 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with paired square posts, simple balustrade.

-13  
10 (Benjamin Harrison House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1915. Brick/stucco; 1½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 segmental dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with large semicircular-arched brick loggia.

-14  
11 (Mary G. Harrison House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1914. Stucco; 1½ stories; gable roof (slate); 3 gable dormers; 3 bays; 1-story, 3 bay porch with tapered square stuccoed columns, segmental-arched bays.

-15  
12 (Raleigh Powell House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1918. Stucco; 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with square wooden posts, pergola-like roof, deck balustrade.



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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

CENTRE HILL COURT (continued)

00-99 BLOCK (continued):

- 16 13 (Petroff House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1921-23. Brick (stretcher bond); 1½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square paneled brick columns, solid brick balustrade.
- 17 14 (Ruth Taylor Gill House): Detached house. American Foursquare. 1914. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with composite columns, turned balustrade. Bracketed eaves.
- 18 15: Detached house. Bungalow. 1914. Stucco; 1½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square stuccoed columns, solid balustrade.
- 19 16 (Elizabeth Barham House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1914. Wood frame (shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 3 bay porch with square wooden posts, lattice balustrade, bracketed eaves. Wide, bracketed overhanging eaves.
- 20 16½ (Steward House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1914. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with rustic stone columns, simple balustrade. Decoratively carved bargeboard ends.
- 21 19 (Hilda Powell House): Detached house. Vernacular. 1921-23. Stucco; 1½ stories; clipped gable roof (slate); 2 gable dormers; 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with fluted Ionic columns.
- 22 20 (M. Cooper House): Detached house. American Foursquare. 1919. Stucco; 2½ stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square stuccoed columns, arched bays.
- 23 21 (Marable House): Detached house. American Foursquare. 1921-23. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with paired slender square posts.
- 24 22 (I. Cooper House): Detached house. American Foursquare. 1919. Stucco; 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with heavy Doric columns on piers, stuccoed balustrade.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

CENTRE HILL COURT (continued)

00-99 BLOCK (continued):

- 25 23 (Rosa Eichberg House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1917. Stucco; 1½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with heavy Doric columns, wide entablature.
- 26 24 (Esther Levitt House): Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1915. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Doric columns.
- 27 25 (I.A. Murtchen House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1914. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; clipped gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with paired square wooden columns.
- 28 26 (Percy H. Baxter House): Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1915. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with paired Ionic columns.
- 29 27 (Mollie Unger House): Detached house. Tudor Revival. After 1924. Brick (irregular bond); 2½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with tripled wooden posts, half timbered pediment.
- 30 29 (Schoenbaum House): Detached house. Bungalow. 1921-23. Wood frame (weatherboard)/stucco; 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 shed dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with heavy Doric columns.
- 31 30 (Centre Hill Apartments): Apartment building. Colonial Revival. 1915. Brick (stretcher bond); 5 stories; flat roof; 13 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with square brick columns.

FRANKLIN STREET

100 BLOCK:

- 32 109 (St. Joseph Convent): Convent. Tudor Revival. Ca. 1920. Brick (irregular bond); 2 stories; parapet roof; 5 bays. Leaded-glass windows, stone string course, pointed-arched, recessed stone entrance embellished with carving.
- 33 123 (Gibbons High School): School. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; parapet roof; 3 bays. Triple 1/1 double-sash windows.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

FRANKLIN STREET (continued)

100 BLOCK (continued):

-34 131: Detached house. Modified Queen Anne. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with square wooden posts, simple balustrade, bracketed modillion cornice. Projecting gables.

-35 137: Vacant lot.

-36 141: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with paired wooden posts, spindle frieze, stick balustrade.

-37 145: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with paired wooden posts, spindle frieze, partially screened.

200 BLOCK:

-38 212: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, paneled and bracketed frieze, sawnwork. Bay window with conical roof.

-39 214: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, turned balustrade, scroll brackets, paneled frieze. Window with conical roof.

-40 215: Detached house. Colonial Revival. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with Ionic columns, balustraded deck. Elliptical fanlight over entrance with sidelights.

-41 217: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square wooden columns, simple balustrade.

-42 218: Detached house. Vernacular. Early to mid-19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square wooden columns, turned balustrade. 2 exterior end brick chimneys at east gable end, 2-story lateral addition.

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Continuation sheet #10

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

FRANKLIN STREET (continued)

200 BLOCK (continued):

- 43 222: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weather-board); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square wooden columns, turned balustrade. Bracketed eaves.
- 44 223: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weather-board); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (center) porch with square wooden posts on brick piers.
- 45 226: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with square wooden columns; low, simple balustrade. Tall, narrow double-hung windows, Italianate-style influence.
- 46 229: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weather-board); 2 stories; hipped roof; 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square wooden posts, simple balustrade. Bracketed cornice.
- 47 230: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with turned posts.

HENRY STREET

200 BLOCK:

- 48 209-211: Double house. Italianate. Mid-19th century. Stucco; 2 stories; hipped roof; 6 bays; 2 porches, 2 bays each, square wooden posts, simple balustrade. Segmental molded window heads, bracketed eaves, central brick chimney. Each porch is one story.
- 49 213-215: Double house. Italianate. Mid-19th century. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof; 6 bays; 2 porches: 1-story each, 2 bays on one porch, 3 bays on other porch, square wooden posts, simple balustrade. Molded segmental window heads, bracketed eaves, central chimney.
- 50 217-219: Double house. Italianate. Mid-19th century. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof; 6 bays; 2 porches: 1 story each, 1 bay each (side), square wooden posts, shed roofs. Molded segmental window heads, bracketed eaves, central chimney.

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7. DESCRIPTION — Inventory:

NORTH JEFFERSON STREET

100 BLOCK:

-51  
(also 123-26) 103: Detached house. Greek Revival. Mid-19th century. Brick (5-course American bond); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with fluted Doric portico, cast-iron railings.

-52 107: Detached house. Victorian Italianate. Late 19th century. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof; 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with turned posts, spindle frieze, bracketed eaves, spindle brackets, turned baluster and spindle balustrade. Bay window with ornamental terra cotta spandrels, buff-colored brick interspersed with yellow and red bricks, stone segmental window heads on 2nd floor, paired brackets and dentils below molded cornice, wrought-iron fence across front.

-53 109  
Vacant lot.

-54 111: Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof; 2 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with square wooden columns, broken pediment over entrance bay, simple balustrade. Large bay window, bracketed and paneled frieze, wrought-iron fence across front, molded window cornices.

-55 120: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, sawnwork, bracketed eaves.

-56 121: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (slate); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Tuscan columns, turned balustrade, balustraded deck.

-57 124-126: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Stucco; 1½ stories; mansard roof (slate); 2 shed dormers, 1 gable dormer; 4 bays; 2 porches: 1 story each, 1 bay each (side), wooden posts on brick piers.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

NORTH JEFFERSON STREET (continued)

100 BLOCK (continued):

-58 125: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with heavy stuccoed columns on brick piers, turned balustrade. Tri-partite windows.

-59 127: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 segmental dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with tapered wooden columns on brick piers, simple balustrade.

-60 133: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (aluminum); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 segmental dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Tuscan columns, stick balustrade.

-61 130: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 gable dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with fluted Ionic columns, simple balustrade.

-62 137-139: Double house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (1st floor weatherboard/2nd floor shingle); 2½ stories; hipped roof; 1 gable dormer; 6 bays; 2 porches: 1 story each, 1 bay each (side), paneled square wooden columns with elaborately carved capitals, dentil frieze, simple balustrade, low bracketed gable roofs. Wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters.

200 BLOCK:

-63 203: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, spindle frieze, bracketed frieze, simple balustrade.

-64 204: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Stucco; 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with square wooden columns, Tuscan columns, broken pediment over entrance bay.

-65 205: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, paneled frieze, turned balustrade, bracketed eaves.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

NORTH JEFFERSON STREET (continued)

200 BLOCK (continued):

- 66 206: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1920. Wood frame (2nd floor weatherboard)/brick (1st floor stretcher bond); 2½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 segmental dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square brick columns, enclosed upper gallery.
- 67 209: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof; 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with wrought-iron supports. Double entrance with transoms above.
- 68 210: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 2½ stories; gable roof; 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Tuscan columns.
- 69 \*211: Detached house. Contemporary. 1970s. Wood frame (aluminum); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. Noncontributing.
- 70 212: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square brick columns, bracketed eaves. Dentil frieze.
- 71 215: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square brick piers, solid brick balustrade. Originally weatherboarded, later brick veneered.
- 72 216: Detached house. American Foursquare. Ca. 1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square brick columns, simple balustrade, bracketed eaves. Dentil frieze.
- 73 219: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, spindle frieze, bracketed eaves.

-86 223: vacant lot  
EAST WASHINGTON STREET

300 BLOCK

- 74 304-306: Double house. Greek Revival. Mid-19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 2 porches: 1 story each, 1 bay each (side), paneled square columns, full entablature. Interior brick chimneys, original porticoes.
- 75 311: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with turned posts.

(See Continuation Sheet # 14 )

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

EAST WASHINGTON STREET (continued)

300 BLOCK (continued)

- 76 312: Detached house. Vernacular. Mid-19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); brick (Flemish bond); 1 story; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays.
- 77 314: Detached house. Vernacular. ca. 1930. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 hipped wall dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with Tuscan columns, broken pediment over entrance bay.
- 78 315: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with square wooden posts.
- 79 318-320: Double house. Vernacular. Early to mid-19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 gable dormers; 6 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with turned posts, turned balustrade, spindle frieze, bracketed eaves. Exterior end brick chimneys.
- 80 319: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with sawn wooden supports flanked by sawnwork. Decorative bargeboard, central brick chimney.
- 81 322-324: Detached house. Greek Revival. Mid-19th century with late 19th-century addition. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays; 1-story, 6-bay porch with turned posts, bracketed eaves, turned and plain balustrade.
- 82 323: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch, paneled and bracketed frieze.
- 83 325: Detached house. Italianate. Mid-19th century. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square wooden columns, simple balustrade. Bracketed cornice, round-arched paired 2nd-floor windows, interior end brick chimneys.
- 84 331: Detached house. Dutch Colonial. ca. 1930. Brick (stretcher bond); and stucco; 2 stories; gambrel roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 1-bay (side) porch with slender wooden posts with ornamental sawnwork, gable roof.
- 85 335: Detached house. Vernacular. ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, sawnwork. Bracketed cornice, decorative sawn gable panel.



## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation                  | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                     | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military    | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                   | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement        | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                      | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates Early 19th Century Through Early 20th Century Builder/Architect n/a

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in one of the four original wards of Petersburg, in proximity to the city's downtown commercial area, the Centre Hill Historic District is an architecturally interesting enclave of 19th-century and early-20th-century residential buildings immured on all sides by more recent commercial, industrial, and municipal development. The district takes its name from the ca. 1823 mansion of Robert Bolling (1759–1839) called Centre Hill, an important and well known example of Petersburg architecture at its grandest that has notable associations with the visits of two American presidents to Petersburg. Until the second decade of this century, the elegant mansion stood prominently on a ten-acre square of gardens and undeveloped parkland overlooking homes, tenements, warehouses, stores and shops to the north, as well as a fashionable residential neighborhood to the east and south. With the sale of Centre Hill Square by Charles Hall Davis in 1910 for development by the Centre Hill Development Corporation, and the rapid growth of Petersburg which followed the outbreak of World War II the setting of the stately brick dwelling changed radically. Between 1914 and 1923, the once grand Centre Hill estate was transformed into a court-shaped urban residential development, typical of many built in American cities in the same period, yet unique in maintaining the venerable antebellum mansion as the focal point. With its successive examples of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and early 20th-century eclectic styles, the district reflects Petersburg's evolution as a city from the mid-nineteenth century through the Progressive Era.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Centre Hill, the mansion for which the Centre Hill Historic District is named, was built in ca. 1823 for Robert Bolling, a member of one of Petersburg's most prominent families and himself the town's wealthiest citizen and householder. Members of the Bolling family acquired land in what is now Petersburg early in the 18th century, and by the end of the Revolution, their holdings extended between old Petersburg and Blandford towns, from the present Sycamore Street to Lieutenant Run.<sup>1</sup> With the incorporation of the Bolling property into the larger borough of Petersburg in 1784, Robert Bolling opened a section of his land called Bolling Brook for development as one of the new borough's four wards. The Bolling development encompassed forty acres between the Appomattox River and present East Bank Street on which Bolling imposed a grid plan of town streets, squares, and sixty lots that extended from west to east from the present First Street to Madison Street.<sup>2</sup> Bolling developed this land on the basis of annual ground rents, a practice then common to other towns such as Norfolk, Alexandria, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.<sup>3</sup> To the south of this planned development lay other Bolling property, including three large and open squares called West Hill, Centre Hill, and East Hill. Early the site of a Bolling warehouse and residence, West Hill soon became the borough's courthouse square with courthouse, prison, church, and other public buildings. From the second quarter of the 18th-century East Hill had served as the site of the venerable Bolling mansion called Bollingbrook. Between these two properties lay the square called Centre Hill, which served until the erection of the mansion as a park and militia muster ground. From Centre Hill departed the Petersburg Volunteers of the War of 1812.

(See Continuation Sheet # 15)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The construction date of Robert Bolling's mansion at Centre Hill can be inferred from the local land tax records which show an increased assessment of \$10,000 for improvements added to Centre Hill and other vacant lots by 1825. No doubt the Federal elements and design details of the present dwelling all date to this period, reflecting the opulence of its owner. While no further improvements were made to Centre Hill during Robert Bolling's lifetime, the property appreciated in value during the 1830s after seventy additional lots were laid out to the south of the mansion by 1831.<sup>6</sup> By 1840 Centre Hill, with its square formed by Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, and Henry streets, formed the nucleus of a fashionable residential area that radiated outward from the mansion along Franklin, Washington, Wythe, Marshall, and Tulip streets. The residence at 218 Franklin Street and at 318-320 and 322-324 East Washington Street, 103 N. Jefferson Street, together with Centre Hill, survive from this now-vanished early 19th-century neighborhood.

Upon Robert Bolling's death, the mansion at Centre Hill with numerous other homes, tenements, stores, and shops, was devised by will to Robert Buckner Bolling, his oldest son. During his proprietorship, Robert B. Bolling undertook two major building campaigns at Centre Hill, each of which increased the value of the property by \$5,000.<sup>7</sup> Improvements recorded in the land tax book of 1842 probably refer to changes to the roof, to the Greek interiors on the first floor as well as to the two verandas on the north facades with their modified Greek Ionic entablatures and columns. The improvements reflected for the first time in the 1850 tax records refer to the addition of the present east wing at that time.

Following the Siege of Petersburg, in which the mansion suffered artillery damage, Major General G.L. Hartsuff, District Commander of Northern forces made Centre Hill his headquarter he greeted President Abraham Lincoln on Lincoln's visit to Petersburg on April 7, 1865.<sup>8</sup> At Centre Hill, on September 26, 1865, plans were also made for the establishment of a local court of conciliation for blacks, many of whom were newly freed from slavery.<sup>9</sup> From Reconstruction to the end of the 19th century, Centre Hill continued in the stewardship of the Bolling family. Maps of Petersburg published in 1877 and 1892 both identify the mansion as the residence of Robert B. Bolling. By 1877 two outbuildings flanked the mansion immediately to the east and west, while a third structure (perhaps the present dwelling at North Jefferson but then a stable) fronted on the otherwise undeveloped west side of Jefferson Street. To the rear of the mansion, on the site of the old militia grounds, were meandering paths with gardens. A semicircular driveway approached the north facade of the mansion from Henry Street. The maps also indicate that, in addition to the dwellings at 218 Franklin Street, and 318-324 East Washington Street, all the other high style, 19th-century residences which have survived in the

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background (continued)

district--the impressive trio of Italianate double houses on Henry Street, then owned by H. Davis; the refined Greek Revival house at 103 North Jefferson; the Italianate house at 325 East Washington Street and the modified Italianate dwelling at 107 and 11 North Jefferson Street were standing by 1877. The unusual configuration of lots in the block formed by the intersection of North Jefferson, Franklin, North Madison, and East Washington streets originated with the extension by 1877 of a connection line between a network of railroads along the industrialized riverfront to the north and the Petersburg rail line to the south. The F. W. Beers map of Petersburg reveals that in 1877 Robert B. Bolling of Centre Hill owned both improved and unimproved lots in the 300 Block of E. Washington Street, including the present houses at 318-322 and 322 E. Washington Street and the lots on which now stand 319 and 323 E. Washington Street. The Beers map shows clearly the character of that block to be, then as later, exclusively residential. By inference, the more modest one-story dwellings at 311 and 315 East Washington Street the row of two-story frame houses at 203, 205, 209, 215, and 219 North Jefferson Street; and the Queen Anne houses at 131 Franklin Street, date to the last decade of the 19th century.<sup>10</sup>

Long a symbol of Petersburg's antebellum affluence, Centre Hill became a symbol of national reunion and sectional reconciliation when Republican President William Howard Taft visited Centre Hill while in Petersburg on May 19, 1909 to unveil the Hartranft monument to the Pennsylvanians and their general, who fought in the Siege of Petersburg. After a reception inside and a luncheon on the lawn, Taft addressed the citizens of Petersburg from the north portico of the house.<sup>11</sup>

The Taft visit to Centre Hill served as prologue to the subdivision of the square by Charles Hall Davis, who had purchased Centre Hill in 1901. In 1910 Davis sold all of the Centre Hill property but the mansion and a central court of woodland to John W. Hayes for \$25,000 for development by the newly formed Centre Hill Company (later known as the Centre Hill Building Corporation).<sup>12</sup> The preservation of a designated circle with cedars and walks was assured by its sale to a related company, Centre Hill Court, Inc., for \$2,500. The same men served as trustees for both companies: J.W. Seward, W.J. Rahily, W.A. Worth, L.A. Rosenstock, Philip Rogers, and H.L. Golsan. Davis retained the mansion and immediate grounds as lot number one of the new subdivision, while the development firm parcelled off the remainder of the square into twenty-nine lots, none of which had been improved at the time of their purchase.

The subsequent development of the square as well as the construction of other early 20th-century houses found in the district is closely related to Petersburg's phenomenal growth after the outbreak of World War I in Europe. The establishment of war-related industries at Hopewell, most notably the Hopewell munitions plant of the Dupont corporation, caused an unexpected surge in the population of Petersburg, which rose from 25,000 inhabitants to 35,000 inhabitants between 1914 and 1916. In order to accommodate this new population, Petersburg undertook and successfully carried out a remarkable

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background (continued)

building program. Thousands of new homes were erected in the city during the war period. Between 1914 and 1916<sup>13</sup> the value of new construction in the city increased by 450% and monthly rents by 150%.

This remarkable building campaign is superbly represented by the variety of Bungalow, Shingle, Colonial Revival, Four-square, and Spanish Colonial Revival-style houses erected on Centre Hill Court between 1914 and 1923, and by the Centre Hill Apartment Building, one of Petersburg's first multiple-family dwellings, constructed to the north of the mansion in 1915. Residential buildings from the same boom period are also located in the district on the north side of Franklin Street and on the east side of North Jefferson Street in the middle of the block.

By 1924, all but one of the lots on Centre Hill Court had been improved.<sup>14</sup> According to the Petersburg City Directory for that year, occupations of male residents on the court and N. Jefferson Street ranged from attorneys and proprietors of wholesale, retail and department stores to insurance agents, engineers, and bank executives, nearly all of whom listed their business address at nearby Sycamore Street, the principal commercial street in Petersburg. Tenants at the Centre Hill Apartments - bookkeepers, clerks, salespersons, factory foremen, as well as a number of professionals and self-employed businessmen - also worked on Sycamore Street by day. Householders on East Washington Street between Jefferson and Madison streets tended to be engaged in mechanical occupations, while those on North Jefferson Street included a number of engineers and garment and clothing store proprietors.<sup>15</sup>

With the construction of St. Joseph's Convent on Franklin Street in the Tudor Revival style by 1930, the Centre Hill Historic District came to assume the general appearance which it projects today. In 1937, Edgar S. Bowling purchased the Centre Hill mansion from the Davis family and gave it to the National Park Service to be used as a museum, which was formally opened in 1950. In 1952 Centre Hill was deeded to the Petersburg Battlefield Museum Corporation. Now owned by the city and a major travel destination of visitors attracted to Petersburg by its remarkable collection of well preserved historic buildings, the house serves as a local history and military museum and is being restored.

SK/RAC

<sup>1</sup>James G. Scott and Edward A. Wyatt, IV, Petersburg's Story: A History (Petersburg: Titmus Optical Co., 1960), pp. 17, 34, 35.

<sup>2</sup>Virginia State Library, Archives Division, Special Maps Collection: Petersburg, 1783.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes (continued)

<sup>3</sup>Scott and Wyatt, Petersburg's Story: A History, p. 52.

<sup>4</sup>James H. Bailey et al., Old Petersburg (Richmond: Hale Publishing Co., 1976), pp. 98-99.

<sup>5</sup>Dinwiddie County, Land Tax Books, 1815-1828.

<sup>6</sup>Dinwiddie County, Land Tax Books, 1828-1840; Virginia State Library, Archives Division Special Maps Collection; Petersburg, 1831.

<sup>7</sup>Dinwiddie County, Land Tax Books, 1840-1850.

<sup>8</sup>James H. Bailey et al., Old Petersburg, p. 98-99.

<sup>9</sup>William D. Henderson, The Unredeemed City: Reconstruction in Petersburg, Virginia, 1865-1874 (Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1977), pp. 13, 27, 47.

<sup>10</sup>Virginia State Library, Archives Division, Special Maps Collection: Petersburg, 1877, 1892.

<sup>11</sup>James H. Bailey et al., Old Petersburg, p.98-99.

<sup>12</sup>City of Petersburg, Land Tax Books, 1910-1915.

<sup>13</sup>Leroy Hodges, Petersburg: Economic and Municipal, (Petersburg: Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, 1917), pp. 123-124.

<sup>14</sup>City of Petersburg, Land Tax Books, 1924.

<sup>15</sup>Petersburg City Directory (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1924).

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Bailey, James H. et al. Old Petersburg. Richmond: Hale Publishing Co., 1976.  
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Henderson, William D. The Unredeemed City: Reconstruction in Petersburg, Virginia, 1865-1874. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1977.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 19 acres

Quadrangle name Petersburg, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References (See Continuation Sheet #19)

A 

|   |   |
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|---|---|

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| 2 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
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Zone Easting Northing

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 2 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

D 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

E 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

F 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

G 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

H 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point (A) on the S side of Henry St. at the SE corner of the intersection of Henry St. and N. Adams St.; thence approximately 640' S along E side of N. Adams St. to a point (B) on the E side of N. Adams St. (See Continuation Sheet #19)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|-----|------|
|-------|-----|------|--------|-----|------|

| state | N/A | code | county | N/A | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|-----|------|
|-------|-----|------|--------|-----|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

organization DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

date August 1984

street & number 221 Governor Street

telephone (804) 786-3143

Zip Code

city or town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Division Director  
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date 5/13/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

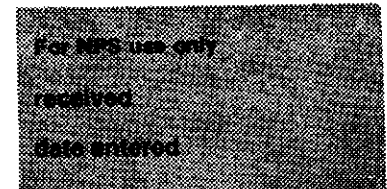
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

CENTRE HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, PETERSBURG, VA

Continuation sheet #19

Item number 9,10,6

Page 2,1,1



9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Virginia State Library, Archives Division, Special Maps Collection: Petersburg 1783, 1831, 1877, 1892, and 1930.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

St.; thence approximately 60' E to a point (C); thence approximately 215' S to a point (D) on the N side of Franklin St.; thence approximately 590' E along N side of Franklin St. to a point (E); thence approximately 250' S to a point (F); thence approximately 225' NE to a point (G); thence approximately 100' S to a point (H) on the north side of East Washington Street; thence approximately 100' W along said side of street to a point (I); thence approximately 210' S to a point (J); thence approximately 310' E to a point (K); thence approximately 210' N to a point (L) on the north side of East Washington Street; thence approximately 150' E to a point (M) at the northwest corner of East Washington and Madison streets; thence approximately 235' N along the west side of Madison Street to a point (N) at the southwest corner of Madison and Franklin streets; thence approximately 300' W along the south side of Franklin Street to a point (O); thence approximately 160' N to a point (P); thence approximately 150' W to a point (Q); thence approximately 610' N to a point (R) on the south side of Henry Street; thence approximately 150' W to a point (S) at the southeast corner of Henry and N. Jefferson streets; thence approximately 100' N to a point (T); thence approximately 175' W to a point (U); thence approximately 100' S to a point (V) on the south side of Henry Street; thence approximately 300' W along the south side of Henry Street to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Centre Hill Historic District were drawn to include the immediate residential neighborhood that surrounds Centre Hill Court and the Centre Hill mansion. Encircled by incompatible modern development, the district does not include industrial and commercial properties north of Henry Street, municipal buildings and parking lots west of N. Adams Street, commercial strip architecture, and vacant lots along E. Washington Street west of N. Jefferson Street, and Interstate 95 development east of N. Madison Street.

UTM REFERENCES:

I-18/286910/4122740

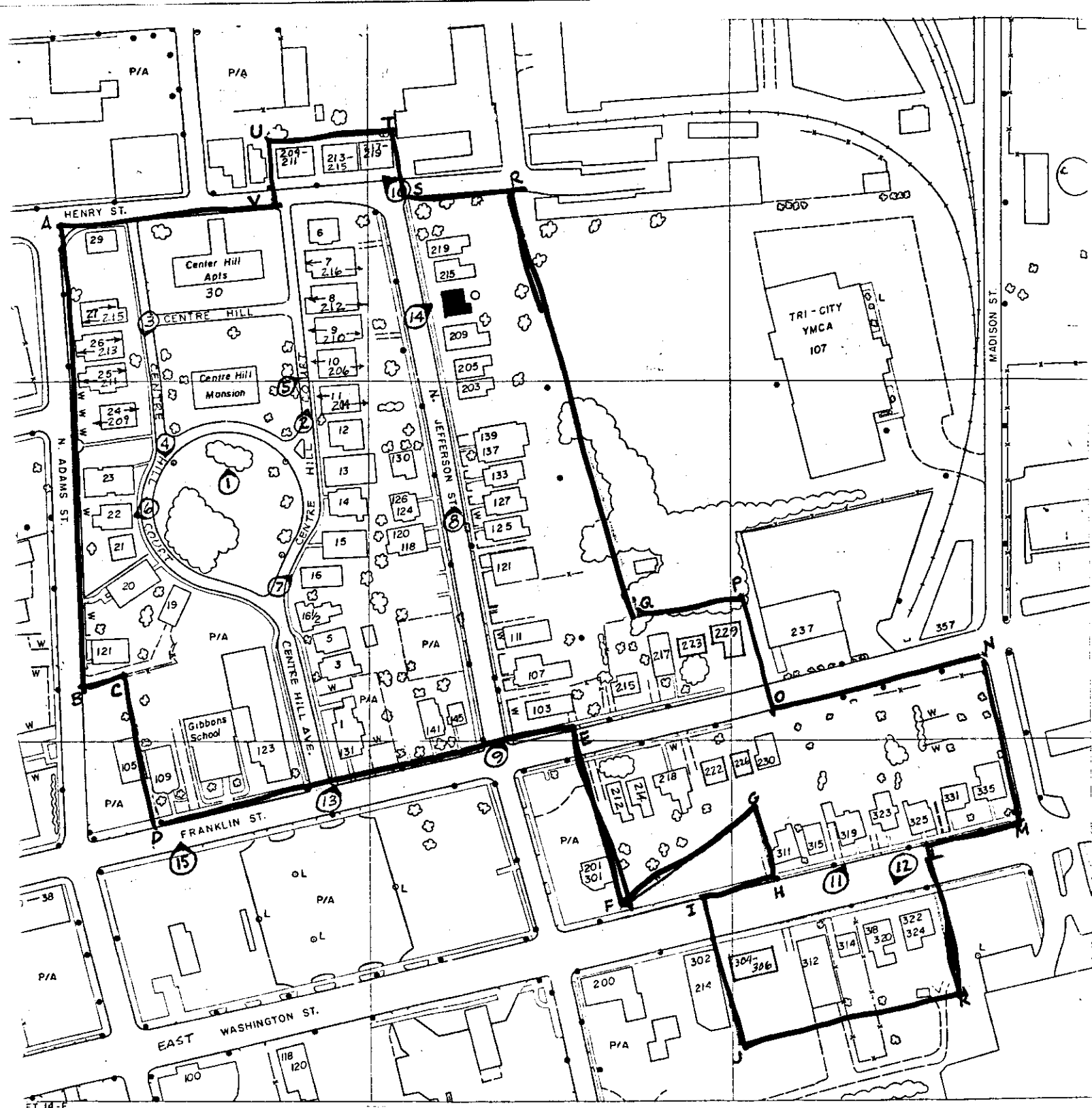
J-18/286880/4122790

K-18/286800/4123010

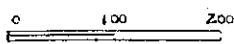
L-18/286970/4123050

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:


2. Centre Hill Mansion  
DHL File No. 123-57  
Division of Historic Landmarks  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Listed - National Register of Historic Places, 1972.

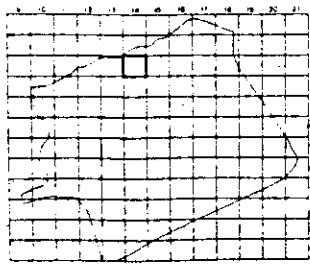


APPROX. SCALE 1" = 200'



 = NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

 = DISTRICT BOUNDARY



Topographic Map  
CENTRE HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 CITY OF  
 PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

SKETCH MAP (1 of 2)  
 Source: City Engineer's Office,  
 Petersburg, VA  
 Date: 1984  
 Scale: 1" = 200'